AERONAUT RESTAURANT
Birmingham Airport Motel

Cover Painting By
Kathy Wolfe

Appetizers

Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail	2.50
Chilled Tomato Juice	.75
Melon (in season)	.85

Soups

FRENCH ONION	.85
SOUP OF THE DAY	.85

Wines

Ask for our Wine List—We stock a selection of fine domestic and imported wines from the vineyards of the world plus a complete selection of choice liquors and liqueurs for your approval and selection.

Southern Delights

CATFISH **3.95**
Served with Hushpuppies, Choice of Potato, Cole Slaw and Tartar Sauce

SHRIMP CREOLE **4.95**
The Most Popular Creole Dish, Served on a Bed of Steamed Rice.

SALAD BAR
WITH CHOICE OF DRESSING INCLUDED

Side Orders

VEGETABLE DU JOUR	.75
HOMEMADE FRENCH FRIED ONION RINGS	.95
HOMEMADE HUSHPUPPIES	.75
SALAD BAR	1.25

Desserts

Cheese Cake	.95
Ice Cream or Sherbet	.75
Fruit Pies	.85
Creme Pies	.85
Layer Cake	.85

Beverages

Tea	.30
Coffee	.30
All Others	.30

Visit the Salad Bar

Help Yourself to a Crisp Salad Plus Your Favorite Dressing,
Croutons, Onions and a Dash of Freshly Ground Pepper . . .
or, If You Wish
Your Waitress Will Arrange and Serve Your Salad

House Specialties

CHICKEN KIEV

Boneless Breast of Chicken Stuffed with Herbs and Butter, Served on Steamed Rice with A Creme Sauce

6.25

BEEF EN BROCHETTE

Tender Cubes of Beef, Fresh Green Pepper, and Onions on a Skewer, Served on Bed of Steamed Rice.

6.95

Old English Prime Ribs of Beef

The Best Eastern Prime Ribs Packed & Roasted in Rock Salt

HEARTY CUT 7.95

or THICKER YET and WITH THE BONE 9.50

Entrees

NEW YORK CUT SIRLOIN STEAK–12 OZ. 8.95

T-BONE STEAK–14 OZ. 7.95

DELMONICO STEAK–10 OZ. 6.95

BROILED GROUND ROUND STEAK 4.25

BROILED CALVES LIVER WITH BACON 4.95

COMBINATION SEAFOOD PLATE 5.25

DEEP FRIED LARGE LOUISIANA SHRIMP 5.75

FLOUNDER STUFFED WITH CRABMEAT 5.95

NORTHERN FRIED CHICKEN 3.95

Choice of French Fries or Baked Potato

The South's One-Man Air Force, Capt. John Randolph Bryan

APRIL 1862

Capt. John Randolph Bryan stepped gingerly into the frail wicker basket swinging below the huge cotton bag. It was late afternoon in mid-April, 1862. Gen. George McClellan's mighty Army of the Potomac was encamped on the other side of the river preparing to attack the Confederate forces.

As Capt. Bryan rose in his balloon, he could see the white tents encamped beyond Lee's Mill where Confederate General Joseph Johnston and John Magruder had their headquarters. Then Bryan paused, grinning. A balloon hung low on the horizon on the other side of the river. Professor Thadeus Lowe, Chief of the Federal Balloon Corps, no longer had the sky to himself. He thumbed his nose at Professor Lowe and gave a high-pitched Rebel yell. Bryan fired two shots from his Colt 44 to signal Lafe Wilkins, who was tending the rope and pulley, to pull him down. His shots were returned by bursts of musket fire from across the river.

Bryan reported to General Johnston that General McClellan had more than 100,000 troops out there, more were marching on the roads, and that a seige train was on Cockletown Road. Johnston ordered Bryan to go back up in the balloon to make certain the Yankees were on the move and to get back down in record time because the outcome of this battle would hinge on what he, Bryan, found out.

As the balloon ascended for the second time, Lafe Wilkins yelled, "Leggo of my danged foot!" Bryan could see a coil of rope had fouled around Lafe's foot and Lafe was being drug across the ground, bouncing toward the pulley. Bryan yelled, "Don't for God sake, don't cut the rope!" as the rope was severed with an ax.

Bryan hurtled upward. It came as a shock he was floating over the river, particularly since he couldn't swim. The balloon descended slowly towards the river and Bryan, reasoning he had a better chance of not drowning, took off his boots and clothes. He shivered in the cold. A cross current pushed his balloon to the bank of the river on the Union side. As the balloon neared the ground, Bryan threw out his clothes and slid down the anchor rope that was trailing on the ground. He hit the ground as the balloon crashed into a tall tree.

He fought back his bitterness and tried to accept the logic that he would never be in the mess he was in if he had not volunteered, without even knowing what he volunteered for. He was a cavalryman, not a danged balloonist.

A horse whinnied nearby, he climbed a fence and climbed onto the animal. Even bareback, he felt at home on a horse. Bryan encountered a Union soldier, he raised his revolver and fired, then slid from the horse and took off on foot. He ran along back roads and cut through the swamp. Wading waist deep through the water, he made his way back to General Johnston's headquarters.

He stood before the general; shoeless, wet and covered with mud. He apologized for being late in getting back and reported he was certain the Yankees were preparing to attack because they were cooking their meat in preparation for a forced march.

'We'll meet the attack here, sir?" Bryan asked.

General Johnston thought about his 12,000 men waiting for this Northern colossus and said, "No, Captain Bryan, I have a surprise for Little Mac."

The Union Army hit at the first streak of dawn. The big seige guns opened first hammering their deadly barrage across the river. Then came the first Vermonters leading the great wave of blue-coated infantry. McClellan was elated. The Rebels were not offering resistance to his steam-roller attack.

Johnston's surprise, with the help of Balloon Bryan, turned Little Mac's face red with anger. The Confederate cannons the Union had charged were dummy wooden logs.

Lafe Wilkins described the balloon as a horse on one end and a jackass on t'other. But balloonist Bryan had saved the Confederate Army from disaster on this cold, spring day in mid-April, 1862. The Rebels were dug in on Richmond's perimeter ready to fight, should the invaders choose to press on.